

Message Text

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12

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SUBJ: SPANISH DELEGATION AND VIEWS ON WORLD POPULATION CONF.

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1. IN ACCORDANCE REFTEL, EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED FROM GOS NAMES OF MEMBERS ITS DELEGATION TO WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN BUCHAREST, RUMANIA, AUGUST 19-30, 1974. SPANISH DELEGATION WILL CONSIST OF FOLLOWING:

RAMON MARTIN HERRERO, MINISTER-PLENIPOTENTIARY AT MFA (HEAD OF DELEGATION)

MANUEL ALONSO OLEA, PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL LABOR TRIBUNAL;

JUAN DIEZ NICOLAS, RECTOR OF MADRID'S EXTENSION UNIVERSITY;

MARCELINO CABANAS, MAGISTRATE OF SUPREMEM COURT;

SALUSTIANO DEL CAMPO URBANO, PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY;

JUAN MARIA LOPEZ-AGUILAR, OFFICER IN CHARGE OF POPULATION MATTERS, MFA;

JAVIER DE URZAIZ, FIRST SECRETARY OF SPANISH EMBASSY IN BUCHAREST.

2. ACCORDING TO LOPEZ-AGUILAR, MFA POPULATION OFFICER, DELEGATION HAS TO HAVE BEEN HEADED BY FERNANDO BENITO MESTRE, WHO IS CURRENTLY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION AT MFA AND, UNTIL SIX MONTHS AGO, WAS SPANISH REPRESENTATIVE TO UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

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IN GENEVA. HOWEVER, BENITO IS UNABLE TO ATTEND BUCHAREST

CONFERENCE DUE TO OTHER COMMITMENTS. IN HIS PLACE, MAFA HAS NAMED RAMON MARTIN HERRERO, PRESTIGIOUS SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL WHO WAS SPANISH PERMANENT DELEGATE TO UNESCO FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AS DELEGATION CHIEF. REMAINING MEMBERS OF DELEGATION ARE EXPERTS FROM DIFFERENT FIELDS RELATED TO POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC MATTERS.

MANUEL ALONSO OLEA, PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL LABOR TRIBUNAL, IS PERHAPS SPAIN'S LEADING JURIDICAL FIGURE AND A VETERAN OF MANY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, INCLUDING ANNUAL ILO CONFERENCES. JUAN DIEZ NICOLAS IS ONE OF SPAIN'S LEADING EDUCATORS. MARCELINO CABANAS IS ALSO A RESPECTED JURIST. SALUSTIN AND DEL CAMPO IS SPAIN'S LEADING SOCIOLOGIST, THE AUTHOR OF MANY BOOKS, AND THE PERSON WHO HERETOFORE HAS BEEN MOST ACTIVE WITH RESPECT TO SPANISH POPULATION MATTERS. (DEL CAMPO HAS ATTENDED THE INTERNATIONAL PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE AND THE 1974 WORLD POPULATION YEAR AND HE IS THE PERSON WHOSE IDEAS WILL PROBABLY MOST INFLUENCE THE SPANISH DELEGATIONS POSITIONS. MR. LOPEZ-AGUILAR IS A YOUNG SPANISH DIPLOMAT WHO HAS BEEN PLACED IN CHARGE OF POPULATION MATTERS AT MFA AND WHO HAS DEDICATED CONSIDERABLE TIME AND EFFORT TO THE FIELD.

3. ALL OF THE ABOVE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MARTIN HERRERO, ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE SPANISH POPULATION COMMISSION, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF AGO IN CONNECTION WITH 1974 WORLD POPULATION YEAR ACTIVITIES AND WAS THE GOS' FIRST STEP IN FOCUSING UPON POPULATION MATTERS. THE HEAD OF THE SPANISH POPULATION COMMISSION IS BENITO MESTRE WHO, HOWEVER, WILL NOT BE GOING TO BUCHAREST.

4. ACCORDING TO LOPEZ-AGUILAR, GOS DELEGATION GENERALLY ENDORSES WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION (WPPA), ALTHOUGH WITH SEVERAL RESERVATIONS. PRINCIPAL QUALIFICATION CONCERNS FACT THAT SPAIN IS A CATHOLIC COUNTRY, AND THAT THEREFORE GOS DELEGATION CANNOT GO AGAINST VATICAN POSITION ON BIRTH CONTROL. GOS DELEGATION FAVORS OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF LIMITING POPULATION GROWTH AND OF RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD, WITH PROVISIO, HOWEVER, THAT CHOICE OF SIZE OF FAMILY, WITHIN CATHOLIC CONTEXT, IS MATTER OF INDIVIDUAL CHOICE. HE SAID SPANISH DELEGATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS FALLEN SOMEWHAT INTO SAME ALIGNMENT AS OTHER MEDITERRANEAN CATHOLIC COUNTRIES, NOTABLY FRANCE AND ITALY, AND DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THIS MEDITERRANEAN CATHOLIC GROUP AND MORE PROGRESSIVE VIEWS OF SCANDINAVIANS AND NORDICS AT THE RECENT GENEVA ECE PREPARATORY MEETING, WERE NOTICEABLE. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, GOS DELEGATION HAS TRIED TO DO ITS HOMEWORK ON POPULATION AND IS GOING TO BUCHAREST CONFERENCE WITH RESPONSIBLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE. DELEGATION HOPES

TO COOPERATE WITH US AND OTHER DELEGATIONS WHO WISH TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE AND WHO WISH TO SEE WPPA ENDORSED AND PERHAPS EVEN STRENGTHENED.

5. LOPEZ-AGUILAR, HOWEVER, SAID SPANISH DELEGATION IS SOMEWHAT PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS OF CONFERENCE BECAUSE POPULATION IS HIGHLY POLITICIZED ISSUE AMONG MANY LDCS. HE FEARS BUCHAREST CONFERENCE COULD DEGENERATE INTO TYPE OF POLITICIZED SESSIONS THAT HAVE UNFORTUNATELY MARRED OTHER CONFERENCES SUCH AS RECENT UN RAW MATERIALS CONFERENCE.

6. HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED GOS HAD CONSIDERED SENDING HIGHER LEVEL DELEGATION BY NAMING SPANISH CABINET MINISTER AS DELEGATION'S HEAD, BUT HTAT THIS IDEA WAS DROPPED, NOT-WITHSTANDING DISAPPOINTMENT SYG POPULATION CONFERENCE CARRILLO FLORES AND OTHERS. HE SAID A COMBINATION OF FACTORS PROMPTED GOS TO DROP CONSIDERATION OF SENDING CABINET MINISTER INCLUDING, INTER ALIA, RECENT CRISIS PROVOKED BY FRANCO'S HOSPITALIZATION, AND FACT THAT POPULATION IS NOT A MAJOR ISSUE IN SPAIN AND OCCUPIES RELATIVELY LOW PRIORITY IN GOS AND MFA. (HE STATED THIS WAS DUE TO FACT SPAIN DOES NOT REALLY HAVE ANY POPULATION PROBLEM, SINCE SPAIN'S POPULATION INCREASE OF SLIGHTLY MORE THAN ONE PERCENT PER ANNUM IS ONE OF LOWEST IN CATHOLIC COUNTRIES.
RIVERO

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